

Message Text

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SUBJ SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING/CONGRESSIONAL
PRESENTATION ON DRUG ABUSE

REF STATE 012151

1. INASMUCH AS CANADA RECEIVES NO AID UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION A OF REFTEL IS NOT APPLICABLE. THIS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NARCOTICS CONTROL EXCEEDS THE SIX-MONTH TIME SPAN, EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED, IN ORDER TO PLACE THE CURRENT SITUATION IN A MORE MEANINGFUL EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE.

2. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ILLEGAL MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICALS SUCH AS METHAMPHETAMINE AND METHYLENEDIOXYAMPHETAMINE (12 ILLICIT LABORATORIES LOCATED LAST YEAR) AND SOME MARIHUANA AND HASHISH PLANTING, CANADA HAS NO PRODUCTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS BUT IS A VICTIM OF DRUGS SMUGGLED IN FROM SOURCE OR TRANSIT COUNTRIES. GIVEN ITS PROXIMITY TO THE US AND LONG COMMON BORDER, CANADA IS FREQUENTLY USED AS TRANSSHIPMENT POINT OF NARCOTICS TO US. THE MAIN POINTS OF ENTRY FOR ILLICIT DRUGS ARE VANCOUVER, TORONTO AND MONTREAL. WITH AN INCREASE IN DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM ABROAD TO SMALLER CITIES SOME DRUGS ARE BEGINNING TO COME IN THROUGH THESE ENTRY PORTS.

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3. TYPICAL DRUG USERS DO NOT CONFINE THEMSELVES TO ONE SPECIFIC DRUG BUT WILL ABUSE WHATEVER IS AVAILABLE ON THE STREETS. THIS PATTERN HAS EVEN BEEN ADOPTED BY HEROIN ADDICTS WHO WILL USE METHAMPHETAMINE AND COCAINE WHILE MAINTAINING THE HEROIN HABIT. MIXTURES OF HEROIN AND COCAINE HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN LABORATORY TESTS.

4. HEROIN IS CANADA'S TOP PRIORITY IN COMBATting ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC. ALTHOUGH USE OF HEROIN IS STILL INCREASING SLIGHTLY ITS RATE IS LEVELLING OFF. HEROIN SEIZURES HAVE DROPPED FROM 98.43 KILOS IN 1973 TO 20.53 KILOS IN 1974. SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS REPLACED EUROPE AS MAIN SOURCE OF HEROIN. THE FLOW OF HEROIN FROM HONG KONG HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DISRUPTED. CANADIAN SUPPLIERS ARE NOW APPROACHING SOURCES IN THAILAND, AIMING AT ESTABLISHING A THAILAND-CANADIAN NETWORK. IN ADDITION TO THE 1971 TURKISH BAN ON OPIUM PRODUCTION, CANADA CREDITS COOPERATION WITH US AND FRANCE FOR THE SHARP DROP IN HEROIN FLOW FROM EUROPE TO NORTH AMERICA. LAST AUTUMN IT WAS ESTIMATED THERE WERE BETWEEN 16,000 AND 19,000 HEROIN ADDICTS IN CANADA OF WHOM AN ESTIMATED 10,000 WERE LOCATED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. IN FACT, 60 TO 70 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ILLICIT DRUG PROBLEM IS CENTERED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND GRADUAL MOVEMENT EASTWARD HAS BEEN DETECTED.

5. ABUSE OF COCAINE, VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT FOUR YEARS AGO, HAS RISEN SHARPLY FROM TWO OUNCES SEIZED IN 1971 TO 8.67 KILOS IN 1972; 32.25 KILOS IN 1973 AND 38.59 KILOS LAST YEAR. YOUTHFUL TRAFFICKERS WHO HAVE RECOGNIZED THE HIGH PROFIT MARGIN AND EASE OF ACCESS AND TRANSPORT ARE SMUGGLING IN COCAINE FROM LATIN AMERICA. COCAINE HAS RECENTLY ATTRACTED GROWING ATTENTION OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ELEMENTS IN THE MAJOR METROPOLITAN CENTERS, PARTICULARLY IN MONTREAL, TORONTO AND VANCOUVER.

6. CANADA IS GREATLY CONCERNED WITH THE INCREASE IN CANNABIS PRODUCTION IN TRADITIONAL SOURCE COUNTRIES, WHICH COULD LEAD TO A CANNABIS EPIDEMIC IF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION IS NOT SOON TAKEN. THE RECENT UNCLASSIFIED

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SEIZURE OF 1950 KILOS OF HASHISH, WHICH WERE IMPORTED WITH NO CAMOUFLAGE OTHER THAN AMATEURISH FALSIFICATION OF IMPORT DOCUMENTS, IS CITED BY CANADIAN OFFICIALS AS EXEMPLIFYING COMPLETE CONTEMPT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BY CANNABIS IMPORTERS. SIGNIFICANT RISE IN USE OF CANNABIS IS ATTRIBUTED TO ITS SUBSTITUTION FOR AMPHETAMINE WHICH HAS BECOME SCARCE FOLLOWING A 90 PERCENT REDUCTION IN LEGAL IMPORTS. MAJOR SOURCE

COUNTRIES FOR MARIHUANA SMUGGLED INTO CANADA ARE MEXICO, JAMAICA, COLOMBIA AND OCCASIONALLY SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. FOR HASHISH PRIMARY SOURCES ARE LEBANON, AFGHANISTAN, NEPAL, PAKISTAN AND INDIA. AMSTERDAM AND LONDON ARE BELIEVED TO BE MAJOR TRANSHIPMENT POINTS. CANNABIS SEIZURES IN 1974 BROKE DOWN AS FOLLOWS: MARIHUANA 7,895 KILOS; HASHISH 2,964 KILOS; HASHISH OIL 141 KILOS.

7. OPIUM IS A NEWCOMER TO THE LOCAL DRUG SCENE. FOLLOWING NEGLIGIBLE APPEARANCE IN PREVIOUS YEARS, 24.7 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM WERE SEIZED IN 1974. THIS DRUG IS IMPORTED FROM THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT BY THE HIPPI COMMUNITY AND BY INDIVIDUALS OF ASIAN ORIGIN WHO RECEIVE OPIUM BY MAIL FROM THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

8. THERE WAS AN UPSWING IN THE NUMBER OF SEIZURES OF ALL ILLICIT DRUGS DURING THE LAST YEAR AS REFLECTED IN AN ICREASE FROM 22,000 ARRESTS IN 1973 TO 26,700 IN 1974, OF WHICH 23,000 WERE FOR CANNABIS USE AND TRAFFICKING.

9. ORGANIZED CRIMINALS WHO HAD UNTIL RECENT TIMES CONFINED THEIR ACTIVITIES TO HEROIN, HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THE HIGH PROFIT POTENTIAL OF OTHER DRUGS. INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED LAST YEAR HAVE SHOWN THAT CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS FINANCIALLY BACKED OR CONTROLLED SEVERAL LARGE COCAINE AND HASHISH VENTURES. ANOTHER NEW TREND HAS BEEN THE SWITCH ON THE PART OF YOUTHFUL TRAFFICKERS FROM SMALL CANNABIS TRANSACTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS TO THE FORMATION OF SOPHISTICATED ORGANIZATIONS ENGATED IN LARGE SCALE SMUGGLING OPERATIONS.
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10. ONLY ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE LEDAIN COMMISSION ON NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS RELEASED A YEAR AGO WAS INTRODUCED FOR ENACTMENT LAST NOVEMBER. UNDER THE BILL, CONTROL OF CANNABIS WOULD BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE NARCOTIC CONTROL ACT TO THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT. SIMPLE POSSESSION OF CANNABIS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO SUMMARY CONVICTION ONLY WITH FINES UP TO \$500 FOR FIRST OFFENSE (\$1,000 FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE) OR UP TO 3 MONTHS JAIL (6 MONTHS FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE) IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT. CURRENT MAXIMUM LIFE SENTENCE FOR TRAFFICKING UPON INDICTMENT WOULD BE REDUCED TO 10 YEARS. MANDATORY SENTENCES CARRYING A MINIMUM OF 7 YEARS AND MAXIMUM OF LIFE FOR IMPORTING OR EXPORTING CANNABIS WOULD BE REDUCED TO MINIMUM THREE YEARS AND MAXIMUM 14. MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR CULTIVATION OF CANNABIS WOULD BE INCREASED TO 10 YEARS FROM CURRENT 7 YEAR LEVEL.

11. CANADA CONTINUED ITS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES. IN THE UN CONTEXT CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL WAS ONLY EXCEEDED BY THAT OF THE US. ALTHOUGH THE GOC HAS NOT YET RATIFIED THE 1972 PROTOCOL AMENDING THE SINGLE CONVENTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS IT FULLY EXPECTS TO DO SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WHILE SUPPORTING THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBSTANCES IN PRINCIPLE SOME PROBLEMS CONCERNING INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN DRUGS NEED TO BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO RATIFICATION. IN ADDITION TO ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, CANADA PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE INTERPOL DRUGS COMMITTEE WHICH MET MOST RECENTLY IN CANNES, FRANCE LAST SEPTEMBER WHEN CANADA'S RCMP INSPECTOR TOMALTY WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN. CANADA PLACES PARTICULAR VALUE ON THE PERIODIC EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND

COORDINATION WITHIN THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG CONTROL COMPOSED OF THE US, FRANCE AND CANADA WHICH HAD ITS MOST RECENT MEETING IN OTTAWA LAST OCTOBER. AS A RESULT OF TWO RECENTLY CONCLUDED COOPERATIVE VENTURES BETWEEN US, THAILAND AND CANADIAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, LARGE SHIPMENTS OF HEROIN FROM BANGKOK TO VANCOUVER AND MONTREAL COULD BE SEIZED, THUS CONTRIBUTING (ALONG WITH SHORTAGES FROM EUROPE) TO THE REDUCTION OF HEROIN IN COUNTRY. IN ADDITION TO FREQUENT TRAVEL ABROAD BY ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH HOST COUNTRY NARCOTICS AGENTS, THE RCMP RECENTLY ASSIGNED DRUG INVESTIGATORS IN PARIS AND HONG KONG.

12. US-CANADIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS CONTINUED TO EXPAND AND DEEPEN. THE SEVEN DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) OFFICERS LOCATED AT OTTAWA, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND VANCOUVER ARE IN DAILY CONTACT WITH THEIR RCMP COUNTERPARTS. SIMILARLY, THE STAFF OF THE NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS DIRECTORATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE HAS DEVELOPED A CLOSE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR US COUNTERPARTS. IN ADDITION TO THESE HIGHLY FREQUENT, INFORMAL CONTACTS, DR. ROBERT DUPONT, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE AND DIRECTOR OF THE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, MET WITH SENIOR CANADIAN OFFICIALS DURING AUGUST, AND A CANADA-US SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS WAS HELD IN OTTAWA ALSO IN AUGUST WHICH WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO A SIMILAR MEETING AT DEA HEADQUARTERS LAST MAY.

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13. THE RCMP HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCEMENT. TO COMBAT THE RISE IN ILLICIT DRUG THE RCMP HAS PROJECTED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT POSITIONS FROM 400 TO 543 IN FY75-76. DURING LAST YEAR OVER 1 MILLION MAN-HOURS WERE EXPENDED BY THE RCMP IN DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT. THE RCMP ALSO EXPANDED ITS TWO-WEEK DRUG INVESTIGATION COURSE FOR PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS. PARTICIPATION IN THESE COURSES INCREASED FROM 38 IN 1973 TO 123 IN 1974. THE DEA COUNTRY ATTACHE HAS BEEN INVITED TO LECTURE AT THESE COURSES.

14. ALTHOUGH THE LEDAIN COMMISSION ON THE NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS RECOMMENDED COMPULSORY TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS, NO SUCH PROGRAM HAS BEEN INSTITUTED SO FAR DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS TO EXPEND THE VERY

LIMITED FACILITIES PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. ORAL METHADONE IS USED FOR TREATMENT BUT ONLY 10 TO 15 PERCENT OF ADDICTS ARE REACHED. A RECENT DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE INTEGRATION OF ADDICT TREATMENT INTO COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, MANITOBA AND NOVA SCOTIA. EXPANSION OF THESE PROGRAMS IS CONSIDERED DESIRABLE AND HAS LED TO THE CREATION OF A FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL TASK FORCE THAT WILL LOOK INTO ADDITIONALL TRAINING NEEDS FOR PESONNEL STAFFING SUCH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS. FURTHERMORE, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AND CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AIMED AT PERSUADING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE AS COORDINATORS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECTS. PORTER

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